

In the Claims:

Claims 1-52 (canceled).

53. (currently amended) A method of processing laundry which comprises the steps of:
- (a) washing a first load of laundry with a detergent in at least one wash vessel to produce a first clean load of laundry and a first wash effluent;
  - (b) passing the first wash effluent through at least one wash filter, producing a first wash permeate and a first wash retentate and allowing the first wash permeate to be returned to the at least one wash vessel to establish a wash loop; and
  - (c) rinsing the first clean load of laundry to produce a first rinsed load of laundry and a first rinse effluent, passing at least a portion of the first rinse effluent through at least one rinse filter to produce a first rinse permeate and a first rinse retentate, and allowing at least a portion of the first rinse effluent permeate to be returned to the at least one wash vessel to establish a rinse loop, the rinse loop being an independent flow path from the wash loop.
54. (original) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the steps of:
- (d) washing a second load of laundry using in part at least a portion of the first wash permeate in the at least one wash vessel to produce a second clean load of laundry and a second wash effluent;
  - (e) passing the second wash effluent through the at least one wash filter, producing a second wash permeate and a second wash retentate; and
  - (f) rinsing the second clean load of laundry to produce a second rinsed load of laundry and a second rinse effluent.

Claim 55 (canceled).

56. (original) The method of claim 54 which further comprises the step of:
- (g) passing at least a portion of the second rinse effluent through the at least one rinse filter to produce a second rinse permeate and a second rinse retentate.
57. (original) The method of Claim 54 wherein Step (f) is accomplished in part by using at least a portion of the first rinse permeate.
58. (currently amended) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the steps of:
- ~~(d) —passing the first rinse effluent through at least one rinse filter, producing a first rinse permeate and a first rinse retentate;~~
  - ~~(e)~~(d) washing a second load of laundry with the detergent and at least a portion of the first wash permeate in the at least one wash vessel to produce a second clean load of laundry and a second wash effluent;

- ~~(f)~~(e) passing the second wash effluent through the at least one wash filter, producing a second wash permeate and a second wash retentate;
- ~~(g)~~(f) rinsing the second clean load of laundry with ~~in part~~ at least a portion of the first rinse permeate to produce a second rinsed load of laundry and a second rinse effluent; and
- ~~(h)~~(g) passing the second rinse effluent through the at least one rinse filter to produce a second rinse permeate and a second rinse retentate.
59. (original) The method of Claim 54 wherein between about 30% and about 90% of the washing in Step (d) is accomplished with first wash permeate.
60. (original) The method of Claim 57 wherein between about 30% and about 90% of the rinsing in Step (f) is accomplished with first rinse permeate.
61. (currently amended) The method of Claim 58 wherein between about 30% and about 90% of the washing in Step ~~(e)~~(d) is accomplished with first wash permeate and between about 30% and about 90% of the rinsing in Step ~~(g)~~(f) is accomplished with first rinse permeate.
62. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~55~~53 which further comprises the step of:  
~~(e)~~(d) transferring at least a portion of the first rinse retentate to the first wash effluent.
63. (original) The method of Claim 56 which further comprises the step of:  
(h) transferring at least a portion of the second rinse retentate to the second wash effluent.
64. (currently amended) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the step of repeating Steps ~~(e)-(h)(a)-(c)~~ at least once on additional loads of laundry.
65. (original) The method of Claim 64 wherein up to about nine loads of laundry are processed.
66. (original) The method of Claim 53 wherein the method is steady state.
67. (original) The method of Claim 64 wherein the method is steady state.
68. (currently amended) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the steps of:  
~~(d) — passing a previous rinse effluent through at least one rinse filter, producing a previous rinse permeate and a previous rinse retentate;~~  
~~(e)~~(d) washing a subsequent load of laundry with the detergent and in part at least a portion of a first or previous wash permeate in the at least one wash vessel to produce a subsequent clean load of laundry and a subsequent wash effluent;  
~~(f)~~(e) passing the subsequent wash effluent through the at least one wash filter, producing a subsequent wash permeate and a subsequent wash retentate; and  
~~(g)~~(f) rinsing the subsequent clean load of laundry with in part at least a portion of the previous rinse permeate to produce a subsequent rinsed load of laundry and a subsequent rinse effluent;  
~~(h)~~(g) repeating Steps (d)-~~(g)~~(f) at least once;  
wherein the previous rinse effluent is the second rinse effluent prior to Step (h) and the previous wash permeate is the first wash permeate prior to Step ~~(h)~~(g).
69. (original) The method of Claim 66 wherein up to about nine loads of laundry are processed.
70. (original) The method of Claim 68 wherein the method is steady state.

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, which further comprises establishing a flow path between the rinse effluent and the wash effluent and allowing a portion of the rinse effluent to be transferred to the wash effluent.
72. (previously presented) A method of processing laundry which comprises the steps of:
- (a) washing a first load of laundry with a detergent in at least one wash vessel to produce a clean load of laundry and a wash effluent;
  - (b) passing the wash effluent through at least one wash filter, producing a wash permeate and a wash retentate and allowing the wash permeate to be returned to the at least one wash vessel to establish a wash loop;
  - (c) rinsing the clean load of laundry to produce a rinsed load of laundry and a rinse effluent, and
  - (d) passing the rinse effluent through at least one rinse filter, producing a rinse permeate and a rinse retentate, and allowing the rinse permeate to be returned to the at least one wash vessel to establish a rinse loop, the rinse loop being an independent flow path from the wash loop.
73. (previously presented) The method of claim 72, which further comprises establishing a flow path between the rinse effluent and the wash effluent and allowing a portion of the rinse effluent to be transferred to the wash effluent.